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EXCIS

SECRET - OADR

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SERVICE DESPATCH

N122 767.00/3-2354

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Embassy, Belgrade
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.



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ENCLOSURE

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ARMY-2 NA/1-2 AIR-2 CIA-7 USIA-50

SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Albania

March 11, 1954

"No. 1 Albanian Internal Politics

"The Albanian Government apparently decided to win the farmers to its cause. It has therefore raised the price for which it buys agricultural products and it has promised to pay more in the future. In addition it authorized the farmers to sell a part of their products on the free market. It appears that this political move had a certain success and that a good number of the farmers have been won over to the side of the regime.

"No. 2 Titoist Partisans

"The Council of Free Albania, which has its seat in the Yugoslavian village of Prizren, has stated that the troupes of which it disposes and which form the 'Albanian Legion' amount to 15,000 men and that it has agents in each branch of the Albanian administrations. It claims that it will soon be in a position to overthrow the Albanian Government. In reality the 'Albanian Legion' has very many fewer men. Also the agents of the Council are not important persons but simple informers. The allied experts estimate that the Titoist partisans are not in a position to seriously harm the Albanian Government if they are not supported by a massive foreign help.

"No. 3 Soviet Politics in Albania

"Contrary to certain information of allied sources

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MAR 23 1954

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REVIEWED BY: [Signature] Date: 11/1/54

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which was circulated in autumn of 1953, Moscow does not seem to have become disinterested in Albania. The Albanian army continues to receive Soviet material of all sorts. The number of officers and technicians and Russian workers increase. The diplomatic mission of USSR at Tirana has been raised to the rank of an Embassy.

"No. 4 The Organization of the Soviet Missions

"Since the arrival at Tirana last year of the new Russian minister of the USSR, Mr. Clément D. Levitchkine, since become Ambassador, the Soviet missions in Albania have been re-organized. These missions which work completely under the control of Mr. Levitchkine, are as follows:

a) Political Mission

"It is composed of approximately 10 Soviet functionaries placed as 'councillors', attached to the various ministries, to the State Control commission and to 'that of the State planning commission.' The councillor of the minister of the interior (General D. Courbatov) appears also to have the power of controlling the internal situation of the country, this with the help of about 30 Soviet functionaries attached to the regional and local offices of the minister of the interior. These latter agents are in contact with some 3,000 Soviet technicians and specialists dispersed throughout the country.

b) Military Mission

"This is under the command of General Stephan Sokolov who has resided in Albania since 1945. This mission consists of 120-130 officers of the 3 services and its own councillors attached to all the services of the minister of defense, to the general staff and the staffs of the divisions and brigades. In fact, these 'councillors' direct the central services and command the large units. For the liaison service they make use of Albanian officers who took advanced courses in Russia. 100 odd Soviet superior officers (Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels) arrived in Albania during the course of last October; certain of these were assigned to the minister of defense, others to the general staff and to the major units in the capacity of councillors and observers; still more have arrived to increase the number of councillors assigned to the regional commands and the

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military schools. The 2 palaces on Stalin Boulevard are in the process of being transformed into a veritable Soviet general staff composed of all the officers assigned to Albania.

c) Technical Mission

"This consists of approximately 3,000 technicians and specialists who control the activities of the country even down to the smallest detail. In fact, these are directors, inspectors and chiefs of the enterprises divided among the mines, factories, agricultural enterprises, harbors, air-ports, etc.

d) The Commercial Mission

"Run by Fedor Corcounov, who has the rank of Minister, is in charge of everything which can be shipped to Russia as partial compensation for the goods the Soviets have supplied. This mission consists of about 30 people.

e) Artistic and Cultural Mission

"Run by Biellov, functionary of Voks, this consists of Soviet artists and professors. These latter teach at the polytechnic school, the medical institute, the advanced school of commerce and the normal school.

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DISCUSSION

"The liaison between the various Soviet missions and the Albanian Government is maintained by the following functionaries of the Soviet Embassy: Voronine, Zaviyallov, Minine, Ignatenko."

For the Ambassador:

Roy M. Melbourne
Roy M. Melbourne
Counselor of Embassy

Department: Please pass Athens,
Belgrade.

DISCUSSION

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